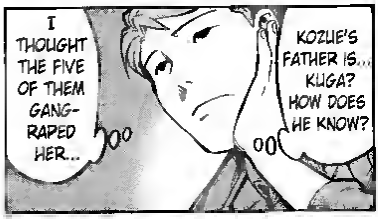
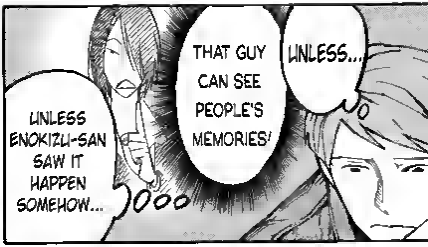
Chapter 04

THAT BOY WE KICKED OUT WAS THE BABY'S FATHER!

One week later
HM...


I THOUGHT THE FIVE OF THEM GANG-RAPED HER...
KOZUE'S FATHER IS... KUGA? HOW DOES HE KNOW?

OI, PHONE CALL FOR YOU! IT'S SOMEBODY CALLED MASUDA
DID KUGA ATTACK SANAE ON HIS OWN, TOO...?
THAT CAN'T BE IT
EH!?
OH... I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!!


UNLESS...
THAT GUY CAN SEE PEOPLE'S MEMORIES!
UNLESS ENOKIZU-SAN SAW IT HAPPEN SOMEHOW...

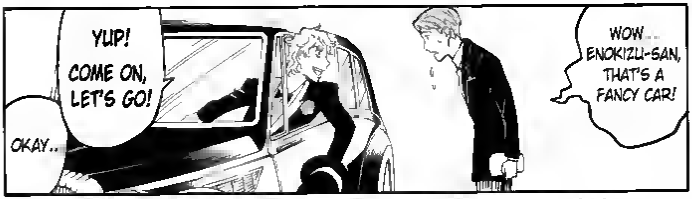
THE BARN WAS TOTALLY DARK AT THE TIME...
BUT THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD HAVE ACTUALLY SEEN IT...

Heeey~
Just thought I'd let you know that the wedding is going to be three days from now.
Make sure you wear something special for the occasion~

I'M NOT USED TO CLOTHES LIKE THIS.. THEY'RE UNCOM-FORT-ABLE...
HUH?

WELL, I'D BETTER FIND SOME-THING...
?
?
SPE-CIAL?

Three days later

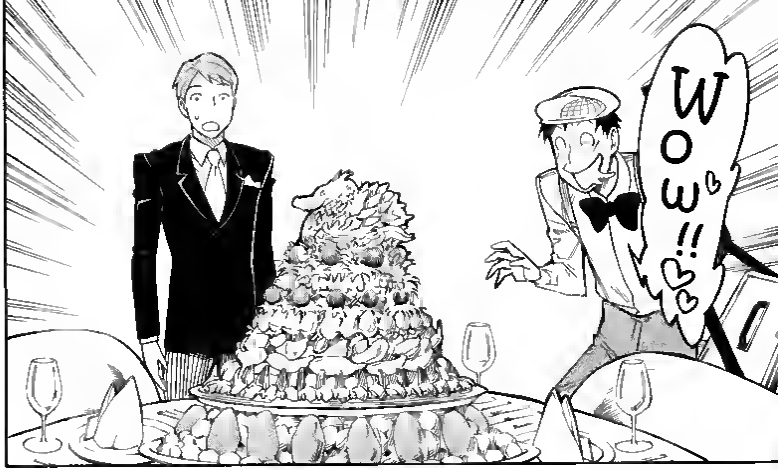


NOTE His name is actually "Toriguchi," but he's given up on Enokizu ever remembering it.

AHH...
SFX: VROOM
Sakurai & Shinchara Wedding Reception

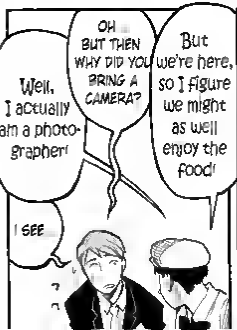
THIS PLACE IS INSANE...
WOW!
THESE RICH PEOPLE REALLY GO ALL OUT, RIGHT, BOSS?
WEL-COME, SIR.
OH, RIGHT...
HOW ARE WE GOING TO SNEAK IN?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE ON THE GUEST LIST.
LOOK, BOSS! THAT'S THE WELCOME TABLE!
flourish

WHISPER
I'D LIKE TO OFFER MY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HAPPY COUPLE.
I'M ENOKIZU REIJIROU
MY FATHER, ENOKIZU MIKIMARO, ISN'T ABLE TO ATTEND, SO I'VE COME IN HIS PLACE.
OH...
OF COURSE YOU'RE WELCOME TO ATTEND, SIR!
NOTE All of Enokizus weird made up names are terrible but these are especially bad. "kamo" means duck and "negi" means "onion."
ARE YOU PERHAPS DISTRACTED, MY DEAR?
...NAMES ARE IRRELEVANT! THE QUALITIES OF A MAN ARE WHAT MATTER, NOT HIS NAME!
OH... OH, WELL I'M SURE THAT'S FINE
WHAT WAS THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S NAME AGAIN?
OH NO, I REMEMBER IT NOW!
Kamo? Negi?
THOSE TWO THERE ARE KAMOYAMA-KUN, A NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPHER, AND HIS ASSISTANT, NEGITA-KUN
MY FATHER THOUGHT THERE SHOULD BE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE EVENT.
ALRIGHT, THEN! COME ALONG, KAMO-KUN AND NEGI-KUN!

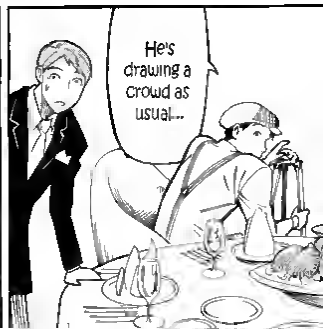

WOW!!

UH-HUH
ENOKIZU-SAMA, I'M FROM XY CORPO-RATION
HMM
ENOKIZU-SAMA! IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE LAST HEARD FROM YOU!

PLOP
Look at all that food!
It'd be a shame to let it go to waste, right?
Go on, sit down!


I SEE...
Well, I actually am a photo-grapher!
OH BUT THEN WHY DID YOU BRING A CAMERA?
But we're here, so I figure we might as well enjoy the food!

EH!?
No idea!
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING HERE?
UM, TORI-GUCHI-SAN...
Yes?


He's drawing a crowd as usual...

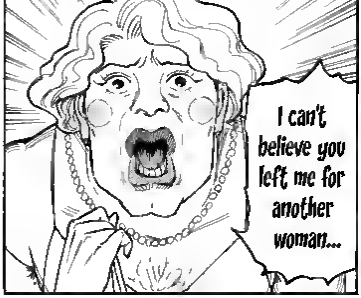
BWA HA HA
!
Chomp
Chomp
FRIENDS AND FAMILY, WE'RE GATHERED HERE TODAY TO CONGRATULATE THE HAPPY COUPLE
AND NOW, HERE COME THE NEW HUSBAND AND WIFE...
THOSE BAST-ARDS...

FLASH FLASH FLASH
FLASH FLASH FLASH
IT'S MIYAKO-SAMA! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL BRIDE!
OOH
AHH
AND THERE'S TETSUYA, THE HANDSOME AND DASHING NEW HUSBAND!
EVERYONE, PLEASE GIVE THEM YOUR APPLAUSE!
FLASH FLASH FLASH FLASH
ping
!?
DASHING AND HAND-SOME!? WHAT BULL-SHIT...!!
OOH
FLASH FLASH

GRIN
ENO-KIZU-SAN?
WHY ARE YOU GRIN-NING?
WE MET BACK IN OUR SCHOOL DAYS...
I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF KNOWING TETSUYA-SAMA FOR A LONG TIME...
HUH?
YES! Finally!
TALK
TALK
TALK
!!
!!

GASP
KYAA!
Tet-chan!
GASP
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHAT!?
How could you be so cruel!?
Tet-chan!!

NOTE
"Okama" literally means "iron pot" and is a slang term for "crossdresser" or "drag queen."
That's right, Kin-chan!
Show him a woman's pride!
WHAT!?
Yup! That's Kin-chan from Nichoume! She's here for revenge!
IS THAT... AN OKAMA?
I have an "iron pot" too!
NOTE
Nichoume is the gay district in Tokyo, with many drag shows.


I can't believe you left me for another woman...

OH, RIGHT... THAT MUST BE THE OKAMA THAT MASUDA-SAN DIDN'T RESCUE!

FLASH!
FLASH!
That's where we...
Remember, darling?
In the barn behind your house?
Did you forget our night of passion?

HE'S JUST SOME PERVERT! PEOPLE LIKE THAT ARE THE SCUM OF SOCIETY! FOR A MAN TO HAVE SUCH A FILTHY HABIT IS
FLASH!
EVERYONE, LISTEN TO ME! ALL OF THAT WAS A LIE!!

whisper
whisper
whisper

WHAT THE HELL!?
STAND
OH~
How embarrassing!

Yes, I'm a man!
But didn't you say that you loved men!?
E-ENO-KIZU-SAN! OH MY GOD, DID YOU PLAN ALL OF THIS!?
whis per
YEP! AND THE CHIEF POLICE DISPATCHER IS SITTING OVER THERE, SO THEY WON'T BE HERE ANYTIME SOON
whis per
CALL THE POLICE!
..GET THIS FREAK OUT OF MY SIGHT!!
Let me go! That hurts!!
Don't you know it's wrong to grope a lady!?
WHAT ARE YOU SHITHEADS STARING AT!?
STARE
STARE
STARE
HUH? THOSE THREE HAVE STRANGE LOOKS ON THEIR FACES...

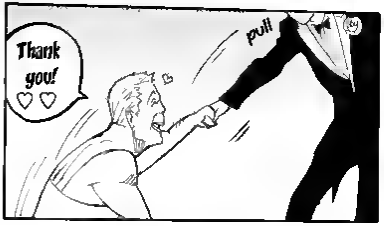
Stop! It's not a crime to be an okama!!
EBATA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT?
STAND
I LOVE YOU, TETSUYA-SAN...
I...
I...

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
...IMA!?
AHH!
I...
I CAN'T HIDE MY FEELINGS ANY LONGER!
FLASH
HELP ME!
TETSUYA-SAN!
I
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU!
WH-WHAT!?
OH MY GOD!
TETSUYA SAN... HOW COULD YOU CHOOSE THAT WOMAN OVER ME...
SHOCK

WAAAH!!
NO... STOP!!
KENGO! STOP!!
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
YOSHIZO, STOP THIS!!
FOR GOD'S SAKE, DON'T CALL THE POLICE! THIS IS HUMILIATING!
MITSU-AKI!!
AAAH
TETSUYA-SAN♡!!

THESE FEELINGS WILL BE SO OVERPOWERING THAT YOU'LL FEEL ALMOST AS IF YOU'RE POSSESSED... YOU'LL FEEL NO SHAME, ONLY INSATIABLE LUST...
WHEN YOU AWAKEN, YOU'LL FIND THAT ALL YOUR FEELINGS OF LOYALTY TOWARDS TETSUYA-SAN HAVE TURNED TO FEELINGS OF SEXUAL DESIRE
THAT NIGHT AT THE BARN KYOUGOKU USED HIS MAGIC ON THEM! IF THEY HEAR THE WORD "KAMA" THREE TIMES, THEY'LL GO CRAZY!
WH... WHAT'S GOING ON...?
wa ha ha ha
BUT YOU'LL FORGET ALL OF THIS ONCE YOU LEAVE THIS ROOM...
WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD "KAMA" REPEATED THREE TIMES AT THE WEDDING RECEPTION, YOU'LL SUDDENLY BE OVERCOME BY PASSION...
ALRIGHT, TIME TO HAVE SOME FUN!
IS THAT WHAT IT'S CALLED?
...HYPNOSIS!?

PUNCH
GET OUT OF HERE, YOU PIECES OF SHIT!
I'M DONE WITH YOU NOW!
KICK


Thank you!
pull

silence
SNAP

..I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT YOU SAVED MY SON... THANK YOU!

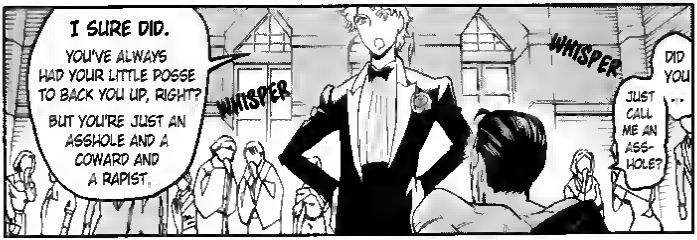
WHAT!? WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?
I'M A DETEC-TIVE!
A DETEC-TIVE?
WHISPER WHISPER
THAT MAN...
WAIT, ISN'T HE THE SON OF THE FORMER VISCOUNT ENOKIZU? THE DIRECTOR OF THE ENOKIZU CORPORATION?
GASP
WHY ARE YOU THANKING ME?
I DIDN'T DO IT TO SAVE YOUR WORTHLESS BRAT!
IF YOU WANT TO GROVEL TO SOMEONE, THEN GROVEL TO THIS DRAG QUEEN!
YOUR SON IS FAR MORE PERVERSE!

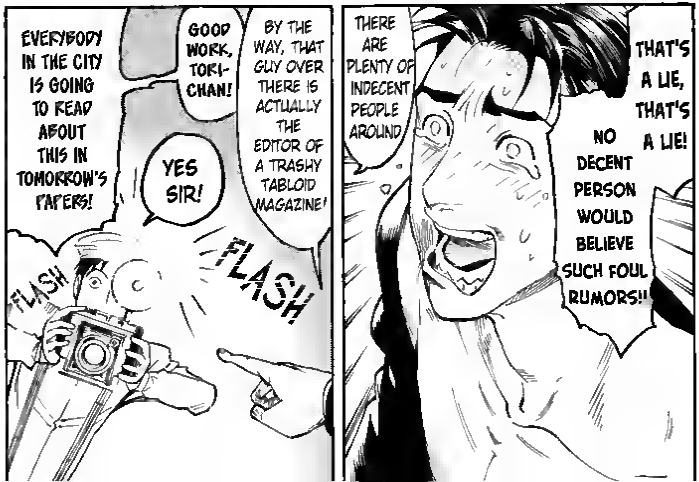
NOTE

During the late 1800s, high-ranking samurai families adopted European noble titles. The Japanese nobility was abolished after WWII, so he's the "former" Viscount Enokizu.

AND YOU, TONOMURA! I'M CUTTING OFF BUSINESS WITH YOUR COMPANY, JUST LIKE I DID WITH KUGA!!
LISTEN TO ME, IMAI! YOU TOO, EBATA! YOU'RE FIRED! I WON'T TOLERATE SUCH HUMILIATION!
BUT...
HUFF
HUFF
HEY!
SMACK
SHUT UP.

DO YOU THINK STRENGTH MAKES YOU A MAN?
DO YOU THINK RAPING WOMEN MAKES YOU A MAN?
DO YOU THINK BEATING UP CROSSDRESSERS MAKES YOU A MAN?
YOU'D BETTER BEG THE GODS FOR FORGIVENESS, YOU ASSHOLE
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE POWER TO FIRE ANYONE.
IT'S YOUR FATHER'S COMPANY, ISN'T IT?


I SURE DID.
YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD YOUR LITTLE POSSE TO BACK YOU UP, RIGHT?
BUT YOU'RE JUST AN ASSHOLE AND A COWARD AND A RAPIST.
WHISPER
WHISPER
DID YOU JUST CALL ME AN ASSHOLE?


EVERYBODY IN THE CITY IS GOING TO READ ABOUT THIS IN TOMORROW'S PAPERS!
GOOD WORK, TOKI-CHAN!
YES SIR!
BY THE WAY, THAT GUY OVER THERE IS ACTUALLY THE EDITOR OF A TRASHY TABLOID MAGAZINE!
FLASH
FLASH
THERE ARE PLENTY OF INDECENT PEOPLE AROUND
THAT'S A LIE, THAT'S A LIE!
NO DECENT PERSON WOULD BELIEVE SUCH FOUL RUMORS!!

YOU PRETENDED NOT TO SEE THE WAY HE TREATED THIS LADY!
HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELVES GOOD PEOPLE WHEN YOU TURN A BLIND EYE TOWARDS INJUSTICE!?
That's right!
YOU'RE THE ONES WHO IGNORED THE SUFFERING OF A GIRL WHO WAS RAPED BY THAT PIG!
AREN'T YOU ALL GUILTY?
WH... WHAT FOOLISHNESS IS THIS!?
THE FOOL HERE IS YOU!
GASP
I CHOSE MY OWN PATH IN LIFE, AND I CHOSE TO BECOME A DETECTIVE!!
NOT THAT YOU'D UNDERSTAND SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON!
PAPA ASSHOLE AND ASSHOLE JUNIOR!
WHO CARES?
IT'S NOT LIKE MY FATHER HAS EVER PAID ATTENTION TO ANYTHING I DO.
FLASH
I WON'T LET YOU MAKE SUCH ACCUSATIONS!
APOLOGIZE THIS INSTANT!!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE THE SON OF THE FORMER VISCOUNT ENOKIZU!
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO SPEAK SUCH SLANDER OR TRY TO TURN SHINOMURA-SENSEI AGAINST ME!
WHAT WOULD YOUR FATHER SAY IF HE KNEW ABOUT THIS!?
FATHER..

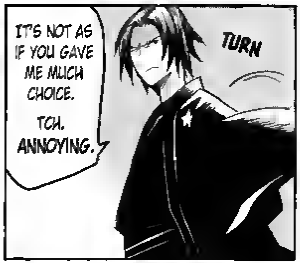
THAT'S ENOUGH OF THIS!
GET THAT MAN OUT OF MY SIGHT!!
WH... WHAT DID HE CALL US...?
NOT SO FAST, CABINET SECRETARY SAKURAI.
WH-WHAT!?
RUSH
RUSH
GASP
!?
YOU...

K... KASHIN-KOJI-KUN!!
...YOU NEED TO BE MUCH MORE CAREFUL ABOUT THE SORT OF PEOPLE YOU ASSOCIATE WITH, SHINOMURA-SENSEI.
I HAVE NOT YET EXORCISED ALL THE EVIL THAT YOU'VE MANAGED TO ATTRACT.
AS FOR YOU, SAKURAI-SAN... THE PRESIDENT OF KUGA ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES HAS COME FORWARD WITH CERTAIN INCRIMINATING INFORMATION.
AFTER HIS SON WAS BULLIED AND YOU CRUSHED HIS COMPANY, I SUPPOSE HE THOUGHT HE HAD NOTHING TO LOSE
THANKS TO HIS TESTIMONY, THE POLICE LEARNED THAT YOU'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN POLITICAL BRIBERY AND EXTORTION FOR YEARS.
TH... THAT'S A LIE!!
THAT TRAITOROUS RAT..

ARE YOU CABINET SECRETARY SAKURAI JUUZOU?
I'M SUZUKI, WITH THE TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE SECOND DIVISION CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT.
BUMP
I'VE GOT A WARRANT HERE FOR YOUR ARREST ON CHARGES OF BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION
I SUGGEST YOU SURRENDER QUIETLY
I ALSO HAVE A WARRANT TO SEARCH YOUR HOME AND OFFICE ON SUSPICION OF TAX EVASION
YOU'LL BE ANSWERING TO THE NATIONAL TAX AGENCY
IF YOU RESIST ARREST, I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO USE FORCE TO BRING YOU INTO CUSTODY...

FLASH
FLASH

K... KASHIN-KOJI-KUN...?


IT'S NOT AS IF YOU GAVE ME MUCH CHOICE.
TCH. ANNOYING.
TURN

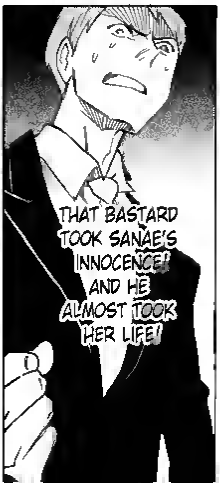
NICE WORK, KYOUGOKU!!

MY METHODS OF EXORCISM MAY BE DRASTIC, BUT THEY'RE EFFECTIVE.
DO WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING, SHINOMURA-SENSEI?
I THINK YOUR LUCK MAY BE IMPROVING

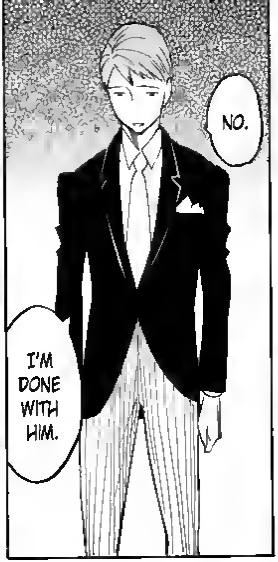
WHISPER
WHISPER
COLLAPSE
GOSSIP
GOSSIP
HEY, INUBOU-SAKI-KUN!

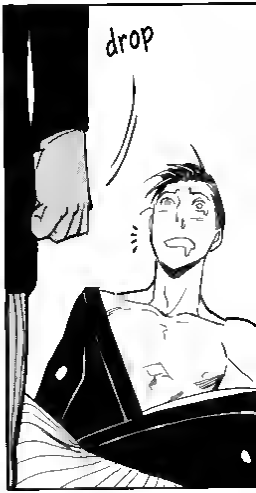
Wanna hit him?

ALL OF THIS...
IS HIS FAULT...


THAT BASTARD TOOK SANAE'S INNOCENCE! AND HE ALMOST TOOK HER LIFE!

I... I'M SORRY!
PLEASE, LET ME GO!





NOTE: "Kamadouma" means "cricket." Enokizu has a phobia of insects.

HUH?
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
UGH...
CATCH
DAMN IT...
YOU SHOULD THANK THE GODS THAT SOMEBODY IS FINALLY KNOCKING SOME SENSE INTO YOU!
I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU YET!
SHOVE
SLAP

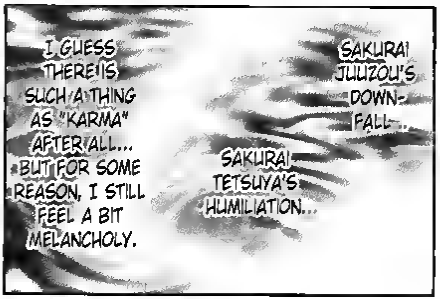
M-MIYAKO-SAN?
brush
brush
TWITCH
UGH
I did not see that coming!
N-NOT AT ALL!
WOW...
YOU THERE,
Um... yes?
YOU'RE THE TRASHY TABLOID REPORTER, RIGHT?
THEN I WANT TO SEE A THOROUGH EXPOSE ON ALL OF THIS MAN'S WRONGDOINGS IN TOMORROW'S PAPER!
WELL IF NONE OF YOU ARE GOING TO HIT HIM, THEN I WILL!
DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

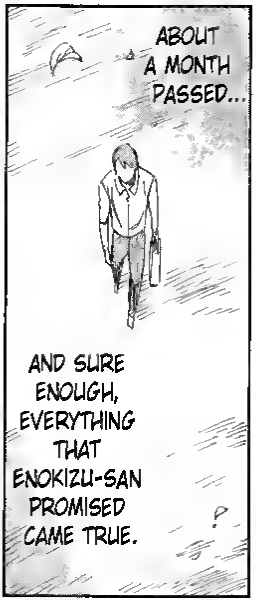
Miss, please...
I beg you to reconsider!
Won't that be embarrassing?
I DON'T CARE. WRITE IT ANYWAY.
But Miss...
SHOCK
IS THAT ALRIGHT?
OH, AND MAKE SURE TO MENTION MY NAME. THAT WILL SELL MORE COPIES, RIGHT?

HOW CAN I EXPECT OTHER WOMEN TO COME FORWARD ABOUT THE INJUSTICES THEY'VE SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF THIS AWFUL MAN IF I MYSELF AM AFRAID TO SPEAK OUT!?
IN ANY CASE, IS THIS IDIOT NOT MY HUSBAND?
IF ANYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO PUNISH HIM, THEN CERTAINLY I DO!

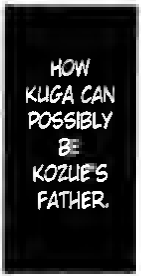
sfx: *kick*
IT'S ONLY UNTIL DEATH DO US PART!!
sigh
FORGIVE ME.. I THOUGHT I WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING BY FINDING YOU A HUSBAND...
OH FATHER, DON'T WORRY..
faint
FLASH
FLASH
AT LEAST A CROSS-DRESSER MIGHT ACTUALLY BE A REAL MAN!
Oh, how splendid! She may be my type after all!
NOT A CHANCE!
AHAHAHAHA...

Cabinet Secretary Sakurai Found Guilty of Bribery
Impeachment Likely, Say Authorities
Sakurai Scandal!
Clear Evidence of Tax Evasion Says Tax Bureau Expert
Cabinet Secretary Sakurai's Son in
SHOCKING SEX SCANDAL!
GAY GANG BANG!
Exclusive Interview with Shinomura Miyako-sensei

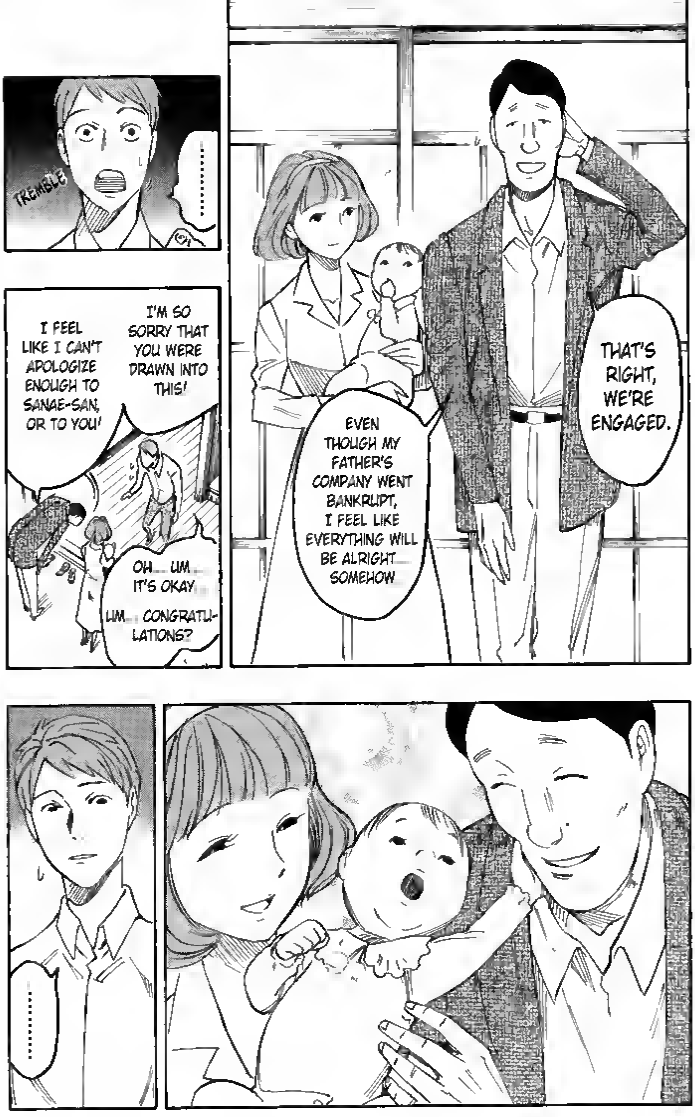

I GUESS THERE IS SUCH A THING AS "KARMA" AFTER ALL... BUT FOR SOME REASON, I STILL FEEL A BIT MELANCHOLY.
SAKURA! JUUZOU'S DOWN-FALL...
SAKURA! TETSUYA'S HUMILIATION...


ABOUT A MONTH PASSED...
AND SURE ENOUGH, EVERYTHING THAT ENOKIZU-SAN PROMISED CAME TRUE.

WHAT!?
M- MARRIED!?


HOW KUGA CAN POSSIBLY BE KOZUE'S FATHER.

AND I STILL DON'T UNDER-STAND...


TREMBLE
.....
EVEN THOUGH MY FATHER'S COMPANY WENT BANKRUPT, I FEEL LIKE EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT SOMEHOW
THAT'S RIGHT, WE'RE ENGAGED.
I'M SO SORRY THAT YOU WERE DRAWN INTO THIS!
I FEEL LIKE I CAN'T APOLOGIZE ENOUGH TO SANAE-SAN, OR TO YOU!
OH... UM... IT'S OKAY.
UM... CONGRATULATIONS?
.....

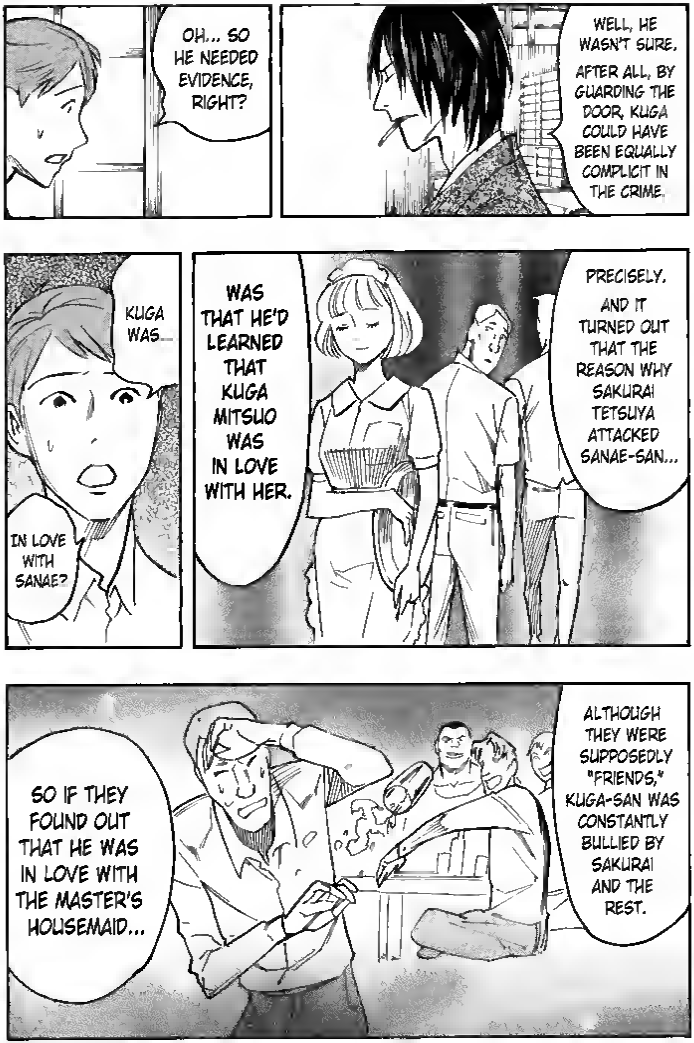
I STILL ...
THAT BOY IS THE BABY'S FATHER!
DON'T UNDER-STAND

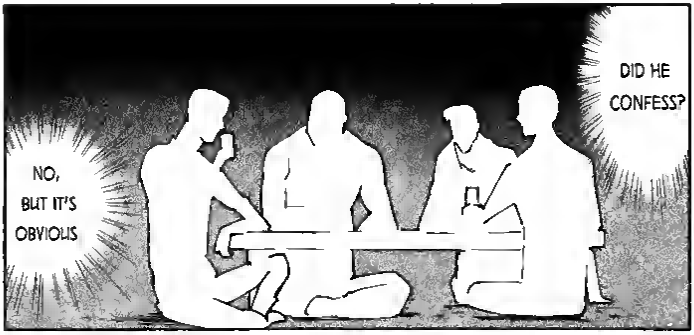
HOW DID HE KNOW HOW THINGS WOULD TURN OUT?
BUT...

SO WHEN HE SAID HE SAW "LIGHT..."
HE REALLY SAW KUGA-SAN GUARDING THE DOOR...!?
HE COULD HAVE MENTIONED THAT EARLIER..

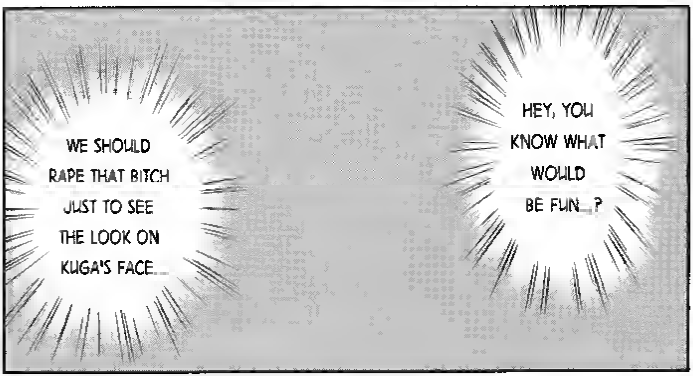
HE TOLD ME WHAT HE SAW.
WHILE THE OTHERS WERE ASSAULTING SANAE-SAN, KUGA-SAN WAS LEFT OUT-SIDE WITH A FLASHLIGHT TO GUARD THE DOOR.

ENOKIZU TOLD YOU THAT HE COULD SEE KUGA'S MEMORIES, RIGHT?
YES...


OH... SO HE NEEDED EVIDENCE, RIGHT?
WELL, HE WASN'T SURE.
AFTER ALL, BY GUARDING THE DOOR, KUGA COULD HAVE BEEN EQUALLY COMPLICIT IN THE CRIME.
KUGA WAS...
IN LOVE WITH SANAE?
WAS THAT HE'D LEARNED THAT KUGA MITSUO WAS IN LOVE WITH HER.
PRECISELY.
AND IT TURNED OUT THAT THE REASON WHY SAKURAI TETSUYA ATTACKED SANAE-SAN...
SO IF THEY FOUND OUT THAT HE WAS IN LOVE WITH THE MASTER'S HOUSEMAID...
ALTHOUGH THEY WERE SUPPOSEDLY "FRIENDS," KUGA-SAN WAS CONSTANTLY BULLIED BY SAKURAI AND THE REST.

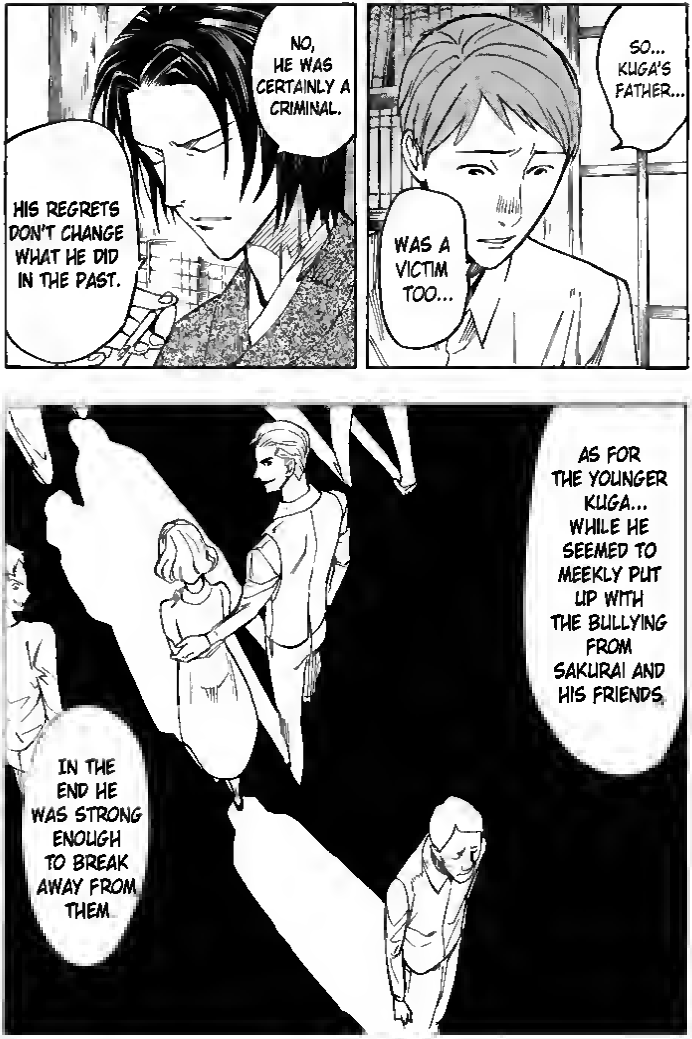

DID HE CONFESS?
NO, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS

HE'S HOT FOR THAT MAID SANAE OR WHATEVER HER NAME WAS.


WE SHOULD RAPE THAT BITCH JUST TO SEE THE LOOK ON KUGA'S FACE...
HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD BE FUN...?

KUGA-SAN WAS UNDER VERY STRICT ORDERS FROM HIS FATHER...
"FOR THE SAKE OF OUR COMPANY, NEVER GO AGAINST THE YOUNG MASTER'S WISHES."
AND SO HE WAS FORCED TO STAND WATCH OUTSIDE THE BARN WHILE THE WOMAN HE LOVED WAS RAPED.

OF COURSE, THE ONE WHO SUFFERED THE MOST HERE WAS SANAE-SAN
THEIR LITTLE GAME NEARLY COST A WOMAN HER LIFE.
HE'S A FOOL, BUT HE'S NOT A CRIMINAL...
THAT'S WHAT ENOKIZU-SAN SAID...
AS FOR WHY KUGA DIDN'T SIMPLY DISOBEY HIS FATHER.. I SUPPOSE HE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE HIS FAMILY SUFFER EVEN MORE.
KUGA TOLD HIS FATHER WHAT HAPPENED, BUT THE OLD MAN ORDERED HIM TO STAY QUIET.
WHEN I URGED HIM TO THINK OF HIS SON'S FUTURE, HE GAVE IN VERY QUICKLY.
BUT I WAS ABLE TO CONVINCE HIM TO COME FORWARD WITH INCRIMI-NATING TESTIMONY.
SAKURAI JUUZOU HAD BEEN USING THE ELDER KUGA AS AN ACCOMPLICE IN HIS UNDER-HANDED SCHEMES FOR YEARS.


NO, HE WAS CERTAINLY A CRIMINAL.
HIS REGRETS DON'T CHANGE WHAT HE DID IN THE PAST.
SO... KUGA'S FATHER...
WAS A VICTIM TOO...
AS FOR THE YOUNGER KUGA... WHILE HE SEEMED TO MEEKLY PUT UP WITH THE BULLYING FROM SAKURAI AND HIS FRIENDS
IN THE END HE WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO BREAK AWAY FROM THEM.

ENOKIZU-SAN WENT THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE FOR US
HE'S A REAL HERO..
OH...
SO THAT'S WHY KUGA WANTED TO APOLOGIZE TO ME...
THAT BUMBLING IDIOT?
HE'S NO HERO.

HE'S JUST LUCKY.

百器徒然袋 鳴釜 薔薇十字探偵の憂鬱

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